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Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts
on Human Rights of Migrants
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INFORMATION AND COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS, UNITED NATIONS BODIES, SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Report of the Secretary-General

ANNEX

Reply by the Government of the Republic of El Salvador dated 9 February 1998

GE.98-13095 (E)

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of El Salvador to the United Nations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Commission on Human Rights Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on Human Rights of Migrants and has the honour to submit the reply of the Government of El Salvador to the questionnaire on the human rights of migrants.

The Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations takes this opportunity to renew to the Commission on Human Rights Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on Human Rights of Migrants the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 9 February 1998

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS

Directorate-General of Migration of El Salvador
Central America

1. What are the latest figures or estimates for:

(a) The total population according to your most recent census?

El Salvador covers an area of over 21,000 km^2 and is bounded to the north by the Republic of Honduras, to the east by Guatemala, to the west by Honduras and the Golfo de Fonseca, which it shares with Honduras and Nicaragua, and to the south by the Pacific Ocean.

El Salvador is composed of 14 departments. Santa Ana, Sonsonate and Ahuachapán lie to the west. In the centre are Chalatenango, San Salvador, La Libertad, La Paz, Cuscatlan, Cabañas and San Vicente. To the east lie Usulután, San Miguel, Morazán and la Unión.

El Salvador has a total population of 5,218,599, including 1,220,024 men and 1,361,810 women living in urban areas and 1,265,589 men and 1,271,176 women living in rural areas (according to 1992 census).

It should be noted that some one and a half million persons emigrated because of the war or for financial reasons and now live in the United States, Canada, Australia and other countries.

(b) Population born abroad, by nationality of origin.

At least 12,257 Salvadorian men and 14,022 Salvadorian women were born abroad, according to the 1992 census.

Most of these persons live in different countries of America, as well as in Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania.

(c) Statistics on non-nationals having authorization to reside in the country.

At least 451 non-nationals hold permanent residence in El Salvador. The census covers the period 1970 to 1997.

These persons originate from 45 countries of America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

(d) Estimate of irregular migrants by country of origin.

A total of 823 non-nationals from Central America, Mexico, Ecuador, Colombia, China, Canada, Egypt, the Dominican Republic, Nigeria and Senegal

were deported from El Salvador between January and December 1997, for contravening the migration laws by avoiding controls on entering the country and carrying no personal identity document.

2. What measures are being taken to strengthen the protection of the human rights of migrants?

(a) Legal measures

Irregular migrants are held for violating article 60 of the Migration Act on entering El Salvador by different border points with Guatemala and Honduras.

Such foreigners remain in the custody of the National Civil Police of El Salvador while investigations are conducted and deportation to their countries of origin is processed.

While the procedure is carried out, the cooperation is sought of international bodies in defraying the cost of transportation.

(b) Public information

The Directorate-General of Migration announces the arrest of irregular migrants in the country's communications media so that the national and international community can see that they are treated with the respect that human beings deserve.

Both deportation and expulsion are covered, with publication of the corresponding details.

(c) Provision of direct assistance and services

All migrants are provided with basic items for their personal use and with daily food.

In the case of illness, they are sent to different health-care centres for treatment.

In addition, volunteers and humanitarian and religious bodies may visit the foreigners and provide them with voluntary assistance.

3. Have there been crimes or incidents against migrants, of the type known as "hate crimes", in your country or against your nationals in another country, in the last five years?

No.

4. What steps have been taken to ratify the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families?

This Convention is currently being studied both by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador and the Ministry of the Interior, the Office of the Attorney-General of the Republic, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Justice.

Note by the Secretariat: The annexes have been filed by the Secretariat and are available on request.